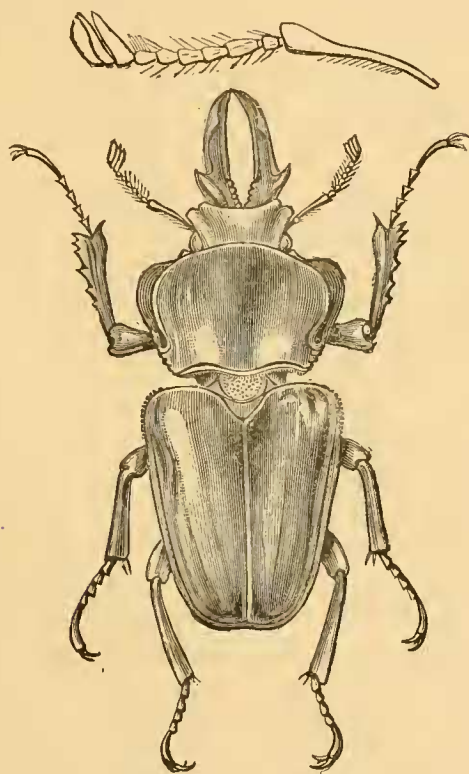


XIV. *On a new species of the genus Phalacrognathus, McLeay.* By JOHN W. SHIPP, of the Oxford University Museum. Communicated by Dr. D. SHARP, M.A., F.R.S.

[Read March 29th, 1893.]



THIS gorgeous insect was purchased by the late Prof. Westwood from Boucard, was labelled as a new species by him, and placed in the Hopeian Collection. It is perhaps the most beautiful Lucanid yet described.

Phalacrognathus westwoodi.

♂. Colour very brilliant metallic-green. Head short, rather wide, slightly emarginate in front; two slight carinae extend from the anterior angles towards centre of depression, rather excavated on disc, sparingly punctured at sides, nitid, and of a bright

TRANS. ENT. SOC. LOND. 1893.—PART III. (SEPT.)

metallic-green colour. Mandibles rather lengthened, curving upwards at apex, not scalloped on the inner edge, a large horn on the outer edge near the base, pointing outwards, and a smaller vertical one near the apex, very evenly crenulate on the inner edge near the base; black, with a splash of metallic-green colour at base. Antennæ black, club 3-jointed. Trophi pitchy, with yellow pubescence. Thorax of a dull bronzy green, impunctate on disc, but with a few very fine punctures on the lateral margins. The sides towards the anterior extremity are very strongly emarginate, rounded, and dilated upwards, with a rounded depression towards the posterior extremity of the lateral margins; the posterior half of the lateral margins being strongly crenulate, with about twelve teeth on each margin, narrower in front than behind, bisinuate on both; base rather strongly emarginate. Scutellum of a roundish triangular form, sparingly punctured; the dorsal surface of metathorax is very strongly and thickly punctured, slightly pubescent. Elytra as long as the head and thorax together (mandibles included), wider at base than apex: of a most brilliant golden green colour at the sides, changing to a lovely crimson and coppery hue on disc; glabrous, and impunctate. The lateral margins are strongly emarginate and deeply crenulate for some distance behind the shoulders, impunctate, but with a few sparse punctures on the emarginated sides; two very shallow and almost obsolete striæ are noticed on each side of suture. Femora same colour as body, changing to a crimson hue in centre. Anterior tibiæ with a slight metallic-green colour on outer margin; widened at apex, deeply toothed with seven teeth externally, and one tooth on the under side at apex; the indentations between the points are slightly crenulate; the under sides are of a pitchy black colour. Posterior tibiæ and tarsi black, sparsely punctured, and without the teeth that are present in the ♀; tarsi furnished on the under side with a few brownish hairs. Under surface resembles the upper surface in colour. Prosternum shows a narrow keel between the fore legs, and the mesosternum is shortly pointed and concave on its anterior face; pygidium very thickly punctured, and under surface covered with a light golden pubescence, and sparingly punctured. Long. corp. 26 lines ($2\frac{1}{8}$ in.).

Hab. North Australia (Boucard, 1889); in Mus. Hope, Ox. Univ. Museum.

The genus *Phalacrognathus* was founded by McLeay (Trans. Linn. Soc. of New South Wales, 1885, x., p. 474) on a single ♀ sent to him by French from N. Australia, the ♀ being described by him as *Lamprima muelleri* on

p. 181, the ♂ being described on p. 474, with a description of the genus. The generic characters which he gives as separating it from the genus *Lamprina* are as follows:—"Mandibles very long, porrect, and curving upwards, smooth, glabrous, and unarmed on the lower and inner edges. Basal joint of antennæ scarcely clavate, and as long as the other joints combined. Fore tibiæ of ♂ without a foliate spur." To this must be added:—"♂ differs from ♀ in having no tibial spurs to the medial and hind tibiæ. The ♀ is more densely punctured than the ♂, and the anterior coxæ are separated and do not touch."

As the trophi have not yet been examined, I cannot say whether it differs from *Lamprina* in those characters.

P. westwoodi, mihi, differs from *muelleri*, McLeay, in the following particulars:—Form broader, anterior sides of lateral margin of thorax more emarginate and curved upwards, increnulate and smooth; teeth at the inner base of mandibles are more even, and the inner edge of mandibles is straight. The posterior margin of thorax is more evenly marked.

A. Mandibles in ♂ long, curved, with two horns, one at base and one at apex, short, as long as head and thorax together. Bright vivid golden green; femora very much thickened, sides deflexed at apex, anterior coxæ not united. Elytra narrower at apex, thickly punctured in ♀, glabrous and smooth in ♂. Scutellum roundish triangular. Posterior tibiæ armed with two spines in ♀, simple in ♂; ♂ has no foliate spur to anterior tibiæ.

AA. Thorax with a very rounded and dilated emargination on apical half of lateral margin; apical half, crenulate. Posterior lateral margin crenulate, inner edge of mandibles smooth, not indented, and the teeth at base of inner margin even *westwoodi*, Shipp.

BB. Thorax with a very slight rounded, scarcely dilated, emargination on apical half of lateral margin deeply crenulated; inner edge of mandibles not smooth, slightly indentated. The teeth at the base of inner margin uneven . . . *muelleri*, McLeay.